



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$950,000 for CMC Adolescent Health Center in the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is Community Medical Centers, Inc., and the project is located at 701 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202.

Community Medical Centers (CMC) is requesting \$950,000 in Community Project Funding to establish a regional CMC Adolescent Health Center that will provide a menu of services in one hub, targeted for at-risk and low-income adolescents in Stockton and the San Joaquin Valley region. Services will be responsive to the community's needs, including behavioral health, substance use treatment, primary and preventive health care (e.g., reproductive health and pediatrics).

Community Project Funding will go toward renovating a 15,577 square-foot building at 701 E. Weber Avenue in Stockton. The building is being transformed into the CMC Adolescent Health Center, a one-stop hub of targeted and evidence-based services accessible to low-income and at-risk adolescents by the end of 2023. Dubbed "The Rock," the facility is a former community center for youth and seniors that was acquired by CMC to expand access to comprehensive care for underserved patients.

In San Joaquin County, 26.8% of the population is under 18 years old (U.S. Census, 2019), a figure that underscores the importance of adolescent services in the region. In Stockton Unified School District alone – just one of the region's 14 school districts – 77.5% of students (32,277) are low-income (Ed Data, 2020). In the San Joaquin County Office of Education system, which includes continuation schools, 60.8% of students (3,070) are low income.

Behavioral and mental health care is a major need expressed by partners and stakeholders in San Joaquin County (SJC). However, access to it has been limited, particularly for low-income individuals who often cannot afford care. Data shows that around 63% of California children in need of treatment or counseling received mental health care, while in SJC less than 59% of children received care (Lucile Packard Foundation, Kidsdata.org, 2021). Depression-related feelings were reported by 24.9% of SJC's 7th graders

and 30.1% of 9th graders, slightly higher than 7th and 9th graders statewide, according to the report. Moreover, SJC children who have been screened for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) have demonstrated higher rates compared to California. 1 ACE: SJC, 30.7%; state, 21.3%. 2 ACEs or more: SJC, 20.5%; state, 14.9%. Targeted health care for SJC teens is also needed to address the disproportionate prevalence of risky behavior, including sexual behaviors and substance use.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center that is able to provide care to patients regardless of their ability to pay, CMC could impact thousands of young patients each year through this project. CMC served a total of 15,418 patients between 14 and 24 years old, who were low-income in 2019. CMC also provides health care services to homeless youth through its Care Link Health Care for the Homeless Program. Youth represent 13% of homeless patients. When complete, the clinic will provide integrated health care responsive to the special needs of at-risk and disadvantaged youth in the area. Responsive and specialized adolescent-centered services will encompass early interventions and treatment for behavioral and mental health, substance use disorders, case management, health education, primary and preventive medical services (e.g. pediatric care and reproductive health, HIV and STD prevention, testing and treatment) in a comprehensive and trauma-informed primary care setting.

CMC has already started laying the foundation for a one-stop adolescent hub, launching responsive programs at various CMC primary care clinics in the county that would be housed in the Adolescent Health Center once established. These programs include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral health and childhood trauma screening, assessment, counseling, and treatment using early intervention methods and evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
- Reproductive health care and education that covers risk reduction for sexually transmitted diseases, and that leverages Title X federal funding.
- A substance use disorder treatment program for youth that is being implemented in 2021 utilizing seed funding from The Center at Sierra Health Foundation's Empower Youth California grant.
- The Care Link-Youth Program, a mobile medical outreach program for homeless youth being implemented in 2021 with support from a California Emergency Solutions and Housing grant through San Joaquin County Continuum of Care.
- The Opportunities for Vital Care, a coordinated care program started in 2020 that provides victims and survivors of human trafficking with trauma-informed medical care, behavioral health services and service navigation/case management in partnership with the Family Justice Center of San Joaquin County.
- Trauma-informed care, which is one of the hallmark approaches practiced at CMC in clinical care. It recognizes that certain patients have experienced trauma that may play a role in the patient's life and overall health. Through this approach, clinics are careful to avoid intentional re-traumatization by ensuring physical and emotional safety, engaging the patient in making their own health choices and building trust through consistency, boundaries, and clear guidance.
- LGBTQ health care that is informed by the disparities and challenges patients face in accessing equitable care. Services include linkage to behavioral health, case management, transgender medicine, and LGBTQ-competent clinical care that is supportive of individual needs.

At the Health Center, adolescents would be supported with wraparound services, including case management and navigation assistance to help address social determinants of health (risks and other factors that contribute to poor outcomes). Wraparound care may cover items such as referrals and linkage to housing, transportation assistance, community programs, eligibility benefit enrollment, and assistance with accessing other community resources leveraging existing community partnerships.

The project is a worthwhile investment of tax dollars that offers an opportunity to directly improve the lives and future outcomes of adolescents in our community. Adolescents in low-income areas, while in such crucial years of development, need early interventions to mitigate health concerns before those problems become more severe conditions in adulthood, such as substance dependence, chronic homelessness, and the continuation of trauma cycles.

Community Project Funding will directly cover construction and rehabilitation, including demolition; installation of an elevator and tower; parking lot seal coating and restriping; masonry of exterior brick and refacing or reworking of openings; structural framing, including reconfiguration as needed; metal framing of interior walls, ceilings and soffits; sheetrock and texture finishes; insulation installation in walls and ceilings; roofing and re-roofing of existing and new areas; exterior and interior glazing; acoustical ceilings; corner guards and rug rails; doors, frames and hardware. Costs will include project management, labor, and supplies.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress